

ROTARY NEWS

ISSUE NO. 24 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HODDESDON

EMAIL SPECIAL EDITION - SPRING 2020



**Rotary
COVID-19**
Here to support the community

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is impacting our regular way of life. Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland are doing what they do best, and supporting their communities.

Here we recognise the nationwide effort to help those in need.

Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland
PEOPLE IN ACTION



Rotary
Hoddesdon



In this electronic copy :
President's message
Go-karting, a winner in the making
District 1260 Conference
Covid 19 community work
Brickendonbury, local history

District 1260 - Chartered 1947 - Club number 19256

Rotary Club of Hoddesdon Benevolent Fund Ltd Charity number 1168314

President Chris Waddington

We live in strange indeed, unprecedented times. When I was thinking a few weeks ago about what I would write for the president's notes in the final bulletin of my presidential year I had already planned the opening paragraph. I was going to start by saying that as president, one of the great privileges is to see first hand, and probably for the only time as a member, how much work actually goes on behind the scenes in organising the many events and projects with which the club is involved.

Who could have predicted then that, having made health a major focus in my year, it would be a major health problem which would put the world into lockdown, result in the self isolation of the great majority of our members, and social distancing of the rest, and indeed render this bulletin shorter, earlier and in electronic form only. It is barely an exaggeration to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought a sudden end to life as we know it.

Sadly most of our major annual club events are held at the end of the Rotary year, and the hard work to which I alluded earlier has been put on hold. We have had to cancel the Essay Competition Presentation Evening, the Spring Event, the Technology Tournament, the visit from our twin club Dinant and the Health Awareness Day. The Coast to Coast Walk which a number of us were doing to raise funds for the club charities and Great Ormond Street has too been cancelled.

It would be very easy in these challenging times to dwell on what we haven't been able to do in the last quarter of our year but I would rather focus on how the Hoddesdon club has risen to the challenges and how we've been able to help those in need in different ways in this new world.

As a result of our Ways & Means Committee's efforts in recent years we have built up a substantial benevolent fund. Recently there has been real need in our community and we have been able to make substantial donations to the RIBI flood appeal and the Broxbourne Foodbank amongst others. We hope too that our major sponsorships of young local canoeists and a go-karter will enable them to reach the heights in their chosen sports, which they justly deserve.

Where we have not been able to help practically, we have teamed up with Round Table in Hoddesdon who are younger and hence currently more mobile. We have rung around the elderly who normally attend our Spring Event and put them in contact with local teams who can physically help.

It is a challenge for us to keep in touch during these difficult times but the club is working on this. Smaller groups of members are communicating by phone or via social media with WhatsApp, Facetime, or Zoom. We have already held our April council meeting on Zoom and shortly plan to get the whole club together "virtually" for our AGM. If this successful I hope we can hold club meetings with a speaker. It is achievable and I am sure the club is more than capable of adapting to the new world in which we find ourselves.

Keep well, keep safe and keep in touch, so we can continue to make changes in our community, nationally and internationally.

Welcome to our newest member

In January we were pleased to welcome new member Tony Infantino to the Rotary Club of Hoddesdon. Tony will be well known to many of our members and readers, having lived in Hoddesdon all of his life and having his accountancy business A. Infantino & Co in the High Street.

Seen here with President Chris Waddington at Tony's induction, and many weeks before self isolation!



How are you coping in isolation?

How are you keeping in touch? For many the move to self isolation will have been a completely new experience, and whilst for some this allows time to reflect and to take stock of life it has not been a positive experience for all.

If living alone people do rely on day to day contact through work, shopping or when out meeting friends and neighbours, and it is estimated that 20% of the population is currently living alone. Of this number 30% are pensioners and whilst perhaps more accustomed to living at home for extended periods the lack of human interaction is none the less testing and in some cases a strain on mental health.

As with other charities such as Age UK, in Rotary we have been getting involved with contacting pensioners by phone and ensuring that their needs are being met either with food supplies, medical deliveries or other essentials. In Hoddesdon we have linked with Round Table and also a new group set up to assist in this crisis – Covid19 Mutual Aid Group with the latter groups making the deliveries. In addition the NHS Volunteers have come forward in large numbers to support the community at this difficult time. (Further reports from around the country on pages 5 and 6).,

Rotarian Peter Shepherd

Rotarians were amongst a large gathering at Woolensbrook Crematorium on 23rd January to attend the funeral of Peter Shepherd long standing member and friend to all there.

Peter had a life long love of anything connected to steam trains, and friend and fellow Rotarian Peter Haynes recalled times together with their shared passion. Following an apprenticeship in carpentry Peter formed his own company and had much success in manufacturing fittings at his local factory for national companies. He enjoyed life to the full with wife Joyce and family, also much involved with boats (he built his own cruiser) and his love of gardening. Peter will be very sadly missed by us all, and our commiserations to the family.



Macaulay Bishop – Go-karting winner

An insight into what might be a very bright future was given when local racer Macaulay Bishop aged eleven and his mum Kitty came to talk to our Rotary Club earlier this year.

Macaulay and his brother Mason are keen go-karters and the family spend much of their free time travelling around the UK, attending race weekends and competing at various go-karting race tracks.



Having had a drive of a go kart at local Rye House racetrack Macaulay decided that this was to be his chosen sport and with the support of his family took up the challenge. There are plenty of hurdles to overcome before becoming a go-kart winner, not least the cost of entrance fees to competitions and maintaining the go-kart. Every race requires a set of tyres at around £150 and the race fees depend upon the location but typically a further £150. This in addition to transporting all of the equipment and family hundreds of miles and with weekends away from home. Competitors are often part of a team, but at present Macaulay is a 'Privateer' operating alone.

Macaulay is in his final year at Roselands School Hoddesdon, and his teachers have accommodated his passion for racing, agreeing to occasional days off to allow for practicing. This has not hindered his education in any way, Macaulay already way ahead in core subjects and ready for secondary school.



We have been pleased to assist with some sponsorship and Macaulay is seen left with President Chris Waddington. If you would like to view Macaulay winning at the 2019 British Kart Championships he can be seen on Facebook at Larkhall in Scotland - go to:

[Larkhall Highlights IAME Cadet Final 2.](#)

We look forward to hearing more of Macaulay as he progresses through the ranks and competes for greater successes in the racing world.

Community Service Committee – Arnold Granat

As a result of the Corona Virus and especially in view of the age of our members, not only have almost all planned events and virtually all activities been cancelled, it was difficult to find any project which, in true Rotary ideals, we could provide help with manna from heaven!

Arnold, chair of our Community Services committee received a call from the President of Round Table advising that they were trying to assist in finding people who may need help in regard to shopping and errands etc., by letting them have details of those invited to our Spring Event.

Three problems. The first was to ensure that the President was indeed who he said he was and, his was not a scam call. That was assured by speaking to two members of the Round Table club known to us.

The second was to find a way of furnishing personal information but not in violation of legislation, That was overcome by deciding to phone people to ask their permission to pass on their information.

The third and probably hardest, was to ensure that people were not opened up to a lack of telephone security from strange/unknown callers, by our “cold” callers. To overcome that, a “script” was devised to ensure that those called, could identify from the information scripted, that the call was indeed from a member of our Club and not a scam call.

Lists were provided to the various members who had volunteered to make the calls and the greatest result was that of over 110 calls made only three local people suggested that they would benefit from some assistance. Others took contact telephone numbers in case their circumstances changed, while all were pleased and grateful for our calls.



Broxbourne Foodbank

At Broxbourne Foodbank donations have fallen with many of us at home and self isolating. We usually provide support each month with contributions of food but whilst we are not meeting this supply has stopped. With this in mind at Hoddesdon Rotary Club we were pleased to donate £2,000 towards the cost of food and past president Martin Lynas is seen here (on left) with coordinator Jeremy Pearce receiving our cheque together with some soup.



Positives from the pandemic

In recent years there has been comment that the younger generations do not want to volunteer in the way that past generations used to do, and equally it has been said that clubs and societies have found it more difficult to fill vacancies and attract new members.

But then! Following the onset of the **Covid 19 pandemic** and an appeal from the UK Government, more than **750,000** volunteers came forward to offer support and to volunteer and help in any way that was needed. This included those in self isolation where assistance could be provided by ringing those more vulnerable people living alone at home. Incredibly this was three times the number of volunteers requested but all were welcome to assist in the major task of feeding and supporting the house bound public. Perhaps giving hope for the future and some new thinking.

There won't be many people that haven't heard of Captain Tom Moore, the fund raiser living in Merton Moretaine, Bedfordshire who set out to raise £1,000 and so far has raised c£29,000,000! This was a spectacular sum and all will go towards the benefit of NHS health workers and for use with patients and relatives visiting hospitals. Captain Moore walked the length of his drive over 100 times and is now recognised as being a national hero. Heroes too are those that gave to this cause, with an average of £20 from each of the 1.3 million UK residents that made donations.



In Rotary we strive to put '**service above self**' and to be **#peopleofaction**. It's good to see that RIBI's Twitter page records many examples of recent actions :

Maidenhead Bridge Rotary Club are feeding 140 families; Stoke RC are providing radios and clocks to C19 patients; Norwich RC are feeding residents and walking their dogs; in Bassenthwaite Cumbria Rotarians are arranging PPE for the local hospice; in York £1400 has been donated to the foodbank; in Hounslow food parcels are being provided and the local 'Open Kitchen' for the homeless is being supported, and in Barnstaple the local Rotarians are giving to the foodbank as well as arranging a 'Children's Art Challenge' whilst they are kept at home. Some great stories amongst many across the country!

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Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland  **PEOPLE OF ACTION**



With a 'bang and a crash' our District Conference was launched to sounds of the energetic junk percussion duo known as **Bang On !**, an exciting sound with instruments including buckets and dustbins.



Held on 29th February at Rothamsted Conference Centre in Harpenden this was a change in format, as explained by District Governor Mary Whitehed (right) but with a full day of speakers and entertainment.



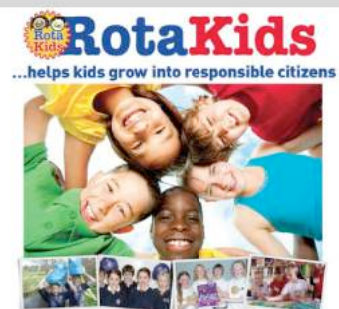
Delegates from clubs across Herts Beds and Bucks listened to many inspirational stories with examples of charities and groups work both at home and abroad to improves the lives of those that need support in various ways.

Starting with 'The Family of Rotary' young people were represented from Rotakids, Interact, Rotaract and RYLA , all giving examples of the work that they are doing both with raising funds or helping other children to gain confidence and find their way in life.



Tom Falla a RYLA leader spoke about the work done at Woodrow High House in Amersham with children given time away from home to do outward bound courses and in reaching their potential.

We also heard about the Rotary Youth Exchange with students able to travel abroad and learn about other cultures, with reciprocal arrangements for foreign students returning to the UK. Local teenager Senan McKenna spoke of his trip to Japan as part of the Short Term Exchange Programme (STEP) and a link with the Rotary Club of Osaka, with Japanese student Ryuotarou coming back to the UK to experience trips to London and local sites. The boys can be seen on the opposite page having attended a Hitchin car show.



An interesting talk was given by Kelly Blankey (right) who is the youngest president in the world, being President of Luton Rotary Club.



Before lunch the conference delegates heard from Rotarian Dr Geoff Mackay (below right). An incredible force of energy Geoff entertained the audience with tales of his ascent in the commercial world, currently Executive Director at BASF plc.

Having been raised on a farm in South Armagh, Geoff moved to the UK attending Liverpool University to read biology before further post grad qualifications and an MBA. An active Rotarian, he has served RIBI and RI in a range of posts also having a Paul Harris Fellowship and in 2005 received as RI Service Above Self Award.,

District Governor Mary was pleased to announce that in Rotary we have reached the target of raising \$1.1 million dollars, these funds contributing towards the cost of fitting a new ship for Mercy Ships. A charity well known to us in Rotary, this was a major achievement and Board Chairman and founding Director Henry Clarke was able to acknowledge the donation and tell the delegates of the work that the new ship will do to assist patients across Africa and parts of the world where no other medical support is available.

Having operated in over fifty countries Mercy Ships builds a five year relationship with every country visited, working closely with each government to deliver a real lasting change to people where it is needed most.

Finally guest speaker Dame Stella Rimington DCB MA talked about her life in the Security Service having completed her career as Director General. Starting out in 1969 long before today's technological age rows of men would be seen steaming open letters with kettles to gain information! With time spent across the globe she recalled her days in Moscow before the end of the Cold War following Russians, and then the about turn with Glasnost in 1989 and comparing notes with those same agents.

An enjoyable and informative day giving an insight to all that Rotary International does at home and around the world. NB This event before self isolation.



Global Scholars 2020

We were pleased to invite two Rotary Global Scholars to lunch in February. Sarah Fischer sponsored by the Rotary Club of Austin Texas, is seen right with Andy Calvert from host club Luton Someries and President Chris Waddington. Sarah is studying the role of women and poverty at London School of Economics.



We also had Ryo Shamazu who is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Yokohama and he is seen here with Phil Roberts from host club Amersham. He Ryo is studying at UCL looking at improving the lives of refugees and he has previously been a full time teacher back in Japan.



Both of our Global Scholar guests spoke of their experiences and hopes for the future working to help communities around the world.

The trike that was purchased with funds from the five local Rotary clubs is now showing the Rotary roundel and the vehicle is being put to good use in Gambia. Helping's Roy Richardson visited the schools earlier this year and was pleased to send this picture back. As reported in previous issues education is not free in Gambia, and this charity offers support to young children and arranges for individual sponsorships.



Help for Education and Local Projects IN the Gambia



"HELPING"



Something new every day.....

In these times of being kept in 'self isolation' it might be that you have a little more time to learn some new skills, or perhaps have a go at a language? There are plenty of free options on the internet, one being 'Duolingo' with an easy step by step process to take you through some basic stages leading up to new conversational skills.

As Rotarians you can also use learning modules on the Rotary website, and if you haven't registered it is an easy process. Search for www.rotarygbi.org If you are reading this article and are not a member of a Rotary Club but would like to know more about what we do, see our Facebook page – Hoddesdon Rotary Club or our website.

Many of us are getting used to using the internet to connect with friends and family, and there can't be many people now that haven't heard of Zoom. So many different groups have been created, and the evenings can easily be filled with quizzes and competitions to maintain contact. The use of technology can be off putting if not familiar with the use of a computer for video conferencing, but it really is easy to learn how to use the 'app' and log on.

In fact when we do return to some sort of 'normality' it will surely follow that we will take some of our new skills with us, and use applications like Zoom to communicate. Equally for those working from home the use of video conferencing has been the norm for some time, but in future it maybe that the daily commute is a thing of the past and that for many more people the office is only visited occasionally.

In recent months a number of Hoddesdon Rotarians have joined together in a 'Whatsapp' group called HODDESDON RC, using our phones to collect and share amusing clips, anecdotes and general information. If you want to join us and have a phone with 'apps' this is a great way of keeping in touch.

Hoddesdon Rotary 200 Club

Be A Rotary Prize Draw winner **Maximum total prizes £5,200**

The 200 Club is simplicity itself and easy to join.
Every participant has a chance in the quarterly draw
Many prizes awarded from 50% of the proceeds
Remaining funds donated to Rotary charitable causes
Payment of **£1** per week, by quarterly standing order
or cheque for an annual payment.

To join please text or call 07803 700919 or speak to one of our members and we will be in touch to confirm acceptance and to forward an application form.



Terry Fisher-Brickendonbury-"I didn't know that" !

It started in 2016 with a visit to Beaulieu National Motor Car Museum as part of Roger Lee's presidential weekend.. Other than some pristine motor cars there was an exhibition giving details of Beaulieu's secret wartime activities. Terry spotted several references to Hertfordshire including Aston House known as Station X11 which was used for clandestine activities. Another property listed was **Brickendonbury Manor**, also requisitioned by the government and Terry was amazed to find that it played an important role in WWII espionage.



Throughout the Second World War (1939-45), Brickendonbury was used by the Special Operations Executive, European Theatre of War, and became Station 17, specializing in training agents and resistance workers in industrial sabotage. Vital operations such as the daring raid to destroy the Norwegian heavy water plant (part of Germany's nuclear bomb programme) and the bombing of the Renault engineering plant in France were launched from the estate. A television documentary The Secret War showed archive film of parts of the estate being used for rehearsing such raids and a reminder of these activities was found during building work in 1973, when unexploded hand grenades and live mortar shells were discovered in the drained moat!

After the war, Brickendonbury took on a peaceful role once more. The mansion was used by the Highways Department of the County Council and as offices for the local branches of the National Agricultural Advisory Service and the War Agricultural Executive. During this time the grounds were neglected and government beige was applied liberally on all internal walls. Immediately before being rescued by the Association in 1971, it was used as the setting for a children's television series Catweazle.

Today, Brickendonbury is home to The Tun Abdul Razak Research Centre a busy research laboratory for the Malaysian Rubber Board, employing c80 engineers and other staff.

The mansion, both inside and out, has been restored to provide elegant working accommodation, and the grounds are now well cared for. The purpose-built laboratories, mill room, library and development areas, housing the practical work of the Research Centre, are in part concealed behind the facade of the Pearson's model farm, which still retains the family motto, just as appropriate for the endeavours of a large rubber research laboratory as it was for the Pearsons - 'Do it with thy Might'.

Having passed this centre many times on the way to Brickendon Golf Course Terry commented that without the information seen at Beaulieu he would never have known what importance the site had to wartime planning and activities.

Thanks to Rotarian Terry Fisher for providing this article.

HUMOUROUS RECOLLECTIONS

During my medical the doctor asked me about my physical activity levels. I described a typical day. "Well yesterday I took a five mile walk through some rough terrain. I then waded through the edge of a lake, and pushed my way through a bramble bush. I got sand in my eyes and shoes, but avoided standing on an adder. I climber several hills, and the mental stress from my day left me shattered. In recovering I drank eight pints of beer". Inspired by my story the doctor said "you must be one hell of an outdoors man!" "No" I replied, "just a really bad golfer" .

An elderly gentleman (John) went to see his doctor (Chris). "Doctor" said John " I am about to marry a very attractive 22 year old girl that I met last week in the pub, but I'm a bit concerned that I may not be able to make her happy". "I don't think that you need to worry" said Chris "but to be safe I'd recommend that you take in a fit lodger". Six months later they met in the High Street. "How's your wife?" said Dr Chris. "Fine" replied John, "she's pregnant." "Oh excellent said Chris, how's the lodger?" "Fine" replied John, "she's pregnant too".

An Englishman, a Scotsman and an Irishman walked into a bar.I remember those days !!

Sad to hear that the discoverer of wheat intolerance has died. The family have requested no flours.

Did you know that my great grandfather invented the glove puppet? Well that is to say he had a hand in it.

We are now three weeks into self isolation and it really upsets me to see my other half standing at the living room window, gazing aimlessly into space with tearful eyes. It breaks my heart to see him/her like this, I've even thought of letting him/her in !

Bored? Try this. Without anyone watching you while sitting where you are, lift your right foot off of the floor and make clockwise circles. Now while doing this draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand. Your foot will have changed direction!

My son came home from school and said "dad, in spelling today I couldn't spell 'armageddon' ". "Don't worry son" I said, "It's not the end of the world".

For those not on Hoddesdon RC Whatsapp this was shared recently:

FIND THE THREE DIGIT PADLOCK CODE. Clues - 147 One of these digits is right but in the wrong place, 189 one digit is right and in the right place, 964 two digits are correct but both are in the wrong place, 523 all digits are wrong, 286 one digit is right but in the wrong place. What are the three numbers? Answer on page 14.

Thank you to all of our Hoddesdon Rotarians that submitted items for this page.



Thoughts from Rotarian Roger Abraham

"Isolated, occupied but apprehensive as to the future.

Penny and I celebrated our 80th birthdays during this lock-down period in total isolation but at least members of my family in Australia, Oxford and Notting Hill made calls to us. As to my sporting activities which have been indicated to the Club at various meetings this has been totally nipped in the bud.

I observed my last football referee at Bishop's Stortford on Wednesday 11th March 2020 and this was the last match that took place in this part of the World. In the bar I made a loose remark that we might not be in business for some time and never did I believe that such remark would hit home like it has. The last seven weeks of the football season have been washed out and I have been deprived of completing any reports or other activities for the FA. The deadly virus has been brought home to me rudely by the death of the Spartan Football League's General Secretary and Referees Secretary both from the dreaded virus and I cannot even pay my last respects to them in person.

I was looking forward to my summer umpiring on the cricket field and this was probably to be my last season. My 80 or so appointments were wiped off the appointments computer system in mid March and I now have a barren summer to look forward to. There is a glimmer of hope that some Cambridge University umpiring will surface in June according to the website but I think this is a forlorn hope. I will now have to galvanize my mind and body and see if I can last for the season 2021 and at least try and retire on a high.

The recent depressing news that some kind of restrictions may last for 12 months make me think as a vulnerable person by age that if I have not been virus cleared I will not be allowed near any cricket or football grounds.

This is my personal tale of woe but this was brightened by my participation in contact, initiated by Arnold, with our Senior Citizens in the area. I was initially extremely reluctant to make cold phone calls in view of remarks made by the police and others but I was completely nonplussed by the reception I got on the phone. Each person I spoke to was pleased to hear from me, chatted away to me on the phone, were full of praise for the Rotary Club and were glad that they had a point of contact with the Club. This was an example of Rotary in action and to me was far more fulfilling than sending money to charities as this is what I call "hands on service". I just hope that both of us will stay clear of this dreadful and killing virus but wonder just how the country will recover both economically and socially from this period of isolation. I fear that we may well be in for a very dramatic change in our life style and freedom of movement

Penny and I wish that all fellow Rotarians and their families stay healthy and fit and we both look forward to a resumption of Rotary activities which over some 39 years of membership of the Club I have become used to"



Future Events

With the current self isolation period with Covid19 we are not currently able to confirm that planned events will be taking place during 2020. To confirm in due course.

Summer Lunch 12th July
President's weekend 17th September
Celebrity Evening 30th October
Christmas collections/Santa's Sleigh



Rearranged - May 2021 at the NEC, Birmingham

Volunteer Expo

Volunteer Expo is Rotary's new, national event to connect volunteers, organisations and the charity sector to harness the power of volunteering



Distributed to over 200 local residents, schools and local business in the Hoddesdon and Broxbourne area this could be a great opportunity to promote your local services . For further information please contact Lawrence on: 07803 700919

WHO'S WHO DURING 2019-20 IN HODDESDON ROTARY CLUB

President: Chris Waddington
President Elect: Lawrence Bone
Immediate Past President: Martin Lynas
Secretary: Mike Marsh
Treasurer: Tony Pomfret
Council Members
Ken Ayling,
Peter Haynes,
Meirion Morris,
David Johnson
Roger Merton,
John West

Chairman of Service Committees
Club Service - Lawrence Bone
Community Service - Arnold Granat
Foundation - Meirion Morris
International - John Glover
Membership/Publicity - Lawrence Bone
Vocational - John Glover
Ways & Means - Peter Haynes
Attendance: Mike Marsh
Auditor: Roger Abraham
Bulletin & Communications: Lawrence Bone
Chase the Ace: Terry Fisher
Code of Practice: John Hiscock
Evening Drives: Roger Lee
Extension: Meirion Morris
Friends of Rotary: Ken Ayling
George Fuller: Mike Marsh
Sergeant at Arms: Barry Fitzpatrick
200 Club: Roger Abraham
Club Archivist: Tommy Knight

(Answer to puzzle on page 12 - 679)



Rotary Disaster Recovery Trust helping people in the UK

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